the supplies, Bitumin is also moved by Rail (Rakes) and by road to Barauni from Indian Oil Corporation's Refineries to meet Bihar State demand.

New Petroleum Product Pipeline Policy

1748. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new Petroleum Product Pipeline Policy based on common carrier principle;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of oil companies which have shown interest on mutually agreed terms and the regulations regarding tariff to be charged for pipeline use;

(c) the names of projects which are likely to benefited by the new policy;

(d) whether this new policy would benefit the common man in the country;

(e) if so, the details of such benefits; and

(f) by when this policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) The Government has notified guidelines for laying petroleum product pipelines *vide* notification F. No. P-20012/5/99-PP dated 20.11.2002. These guidelines categorize the pipelines and *inter alia* cover the issues of "ownership and access", "tariff" etc.

M/s Gas Transportation & Infrastructure Company Limited, M/s Petronet CI Limited and M/s Essar Oil Limited have so far shown interest in laying pipelines in pursuance of the aforesaid guidelines.

The guidelines are envisaged to expedite laying of petroleum product pipelines in the country. As pipeline transportation is generally cheaper as compared to other modes of transportation, it is likely to reduce the distribution costs of petroleum products.